



*Our mission is to prevent deaths, injuries, property loss, and environmental damage resulting from wildfires in Deschutes County.*

**November 16, 2021 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
DRAFT Minutes**

**Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:**

X	Tom Mooney	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire Chief
	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 2	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	La Pine Fire Dept.
	Doug Green	Fire Rep 4	Bend / Sisters Fire
	Vacant	Insurance Industry	
X	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
X	Kyle Collins	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
X	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
X	Dave Gibson	HOA Rep	Black Butte Ranch HOA
X	Dean Richardson	HOA Rep	Upper Deschutes River Communities
	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
X	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
X	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
X	Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
X	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	
	Jessica Laberge	Business	
X	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County

**Public Present:**

Bill Boos – Bend Fire and Rescue  
Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest  
Brandie Foster – Central Oregon Realtors Associations  
Heather Miller - OSFM  
Craig Letz – Independent Contractor  
Don Tschida – Bureau of Land Management  
Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods  
Jane Merrow - North Rim HOA  
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch  
Robert Newey – COFMS Newberry FMO  
Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were through Chat

### **AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE**

Agenda and past minutes were sent out in a previous email. Boone solicited for any input and reminded folks to email Ed or himself directly if they found any needed changes.

Boone- Let everyone know Ed would only be joining the meeting for the first part of the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded folks to mute themselves and do introductions through the chat as this helps to capture attendance in notes.

Boone – Provided updates including FireFree fall event that recently concluded, The Greater Bend CWPP updates and current progress of Firewise Communities.

During the fall half price FireFree event Deschutes Recycling at Knott Landfill had 5,720 yards dropped off. Jefferson County was also running their event and gathered approximately 1,022 cubic yards.

As a reminder, the Greater Bend CWPP is in the signature phase of the revision process. The next CWPP to be revised is the Greater Redmond CWPP.

Firewise recognized sites in Deschutes County is currently reaching 50. We are in process of creating a press release and video from partners thanking the communities for doing their part. As it sits today, we are at 50. Since Firewise started in Deschutes County, there has been 8.7 million invested by the communities with 2.5 million invested last year alone. Oregon as a state ranks #2 in most Firewise Sites, Deschutes County ranks #6 of all counties nationally.

Oliver Tatom – Asked if there was a breakdown by fire district. Boone – Did not have the numbers at that time. Numbers gathered since the meeting: Sisters – 14, Redmond – 4, District No. 2 – 10, Bend Fire and Rescue – 14, Sunriver – 1, La Pine – 9. There are now 52 sites with two added since the meeting 1 week ago.

Boone then transitioned from the monthly update to the monthly topic.

## **Meeting Topic**

### **The Central Oregon Fire Prevention Co-op (COFPC). Heather Miller – Fire Risk Reduction Specialist, Oregon State Fire Marshals, and Don Tschida – Battalion Chief, Prineville Ranger District BLM .**

Don Tschida- Planned to discuss who COFPC are, current structure, history of Co-op with Heather covering yearly events.

COFPC is made of 10 partners including Red Cross, Fire Departments and the 3 larger fire managers, USFS, BLM, and ODF to name a few.

COFPC covers the tri-County area, Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes County. They also cover parts of Klamath, Wheeler and Wasco Counties. Through their Mission Statement, “to promote an interagency exchange of ideas and resources by actively participating through coordinated fire and life safety education programs, projects and presentations”, COFPC are aligned with Cohesive Strategy supporting the goal of Fire Adapted Communities. COFPC falls under the Central Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (COFCA). Their website is [http://www.centraloregonfireservices.org/?zone=/unionactive/view\\_page.cfm&page=COFPC](http://www.centraloregonfireservices.org/?zone=/unionactive/view_page.cfm&page=COFPC)

The Co-op was established in 1977. The need was emphasized by the Tollgate fire in 1979 just outside of Sisters. Don showed a clip of the 1979 Tollgate fire <https://youtu.be/2lQ57ncQZWs> During the fire many of the local fire managers discussed the concepts of what the COFPC works on still today. There have been many changes to the signs and logos over the years, but the mission has changed little.

Two of the bigger programs have been Team Teaching and Firebusters. With COVID, much of the classroom visits have been on hold. COFPC also does hunters safety booth, fairs, parades, Central Oregon Youth Fire Intervention and have an escape trailer they use at events.

Much of their funding comes through COFCA and grants. Often agencies provide funding support through buying supplies like swag to be given out.

Don turned the discussion over to Heather to cover current and planned events.

Heather- Along with the yearly events like the Home and Garden Show and Deschutes County Fair, Firebusters happen every year. Firebusters started 35 years ago targeting K-5<sup>th</sup> grades. This year they created five 30-second videos along with a worksheet for kids. For schools that get over 50% participation in Firebuster activities, the school can win an assembly with Air-link flying in with Smokey and Sparky.

Don- The County Fair is staffed for all five days with volunteers. During that time, they see on average 500 people per day. Engines for display are provided by local fire department along with engines from USFS. Crook and Jefferson County fairs are staffed for four days. During the fairs, activities for the kids include Smokey, Buster, a mobile Exit Drills In The Home(EDITH) trailer, local artist drawing animals, static engine displays along with several other activities. COFPC has also been quite involved with helping and volunteering with FireFree events. The COFPC is always volunteering and looking for more volunteers to participate.

Don- Opened the discussion for questions.

Dean Richardson- Asked if the COFPC works in the Southern Deschutes County area. Don- Said that they do and that he would be able to work with UDRC when he worked in the area.

Kevin Stock – COFPC is always looking to increase participation, there are few people carrying the torch. Human starts continue to outpace natural starts and fire prevention is key to reducing this number.

At this time, Boone turned the meeting over to round table updates.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Bill Boos – Not much from Bend fire, evaluating how the fire season went. Boone – Asked about the fire permitting that is online. Bill – This is the same permitting app that Sisters started using a couple years ago. This system provides locations to Bend Fire and burn days to residents. Deschutes District No2 is primarily using this app as backyard burning is not allowed in City limits.

Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest – Working with Deschutes County on the FEMA grant funding.

Kevin Stock – Looking to give an update on the infrastructure bill in the next couple of months.

Robert Newey – Newberry Division looking forward to infrastructure bill. Currently there is quite a bit of pile burning happening in a lot of high profile locations and will continue into January.

Tom Mooney – Also been beta testing the burn permit app for Redmond fire. They are also in the phase of creating a fire investigator class.

Dean Richardson – Wanted to say thank you to USFS for the planned projects that are getting under way. UDRC will see some changes to personnel in the near future.

Don Tschida – Thanked everyone for having COFPC at the meeting. Boone – Will provide contact info for both, Don and Heather. [dtschida@blm.gov](mailto:dtschida@blm.gov) [hmillier@osp.oregon.gov](mailto:hmillier@osp.oregon.gov)

At this time, Boone thanked everyone for joining and closed out the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.